

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 EURE-00 /098 W

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P R 291356Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8885

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, YO, IT, US

SUBJECT: BORBA EDITORIAL ON DARK IMAGE

1. MARCH 29 BELGRADE DAILY BORBA CARRIES PAGE 3 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "ECHOES: DARK IMAGE 74" IN WHICH NAME AND TIMING OF NATO EXERCISES IN NORTHERN ADRIATIC ARE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION IN LIGHT OF CURRENT YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE ZONE B.

2. EDITORIAL BEGINS BY NOTING STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL JOHNSTON, "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF NATO FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE" THAT MANEUVERS CONCEIVED AS REGULAR ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE IN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF COMMANDS AND UNITS OF FORCES TAKING PART IN DEFENSE OF SOUTHERN NATO AREA. EDITORIAL THEN REFERS TO DEFENSE DEPT SPOKESMAN (JAMES) ANNOUNCEMENT "ONE VERY EVE OF MANEUVERS" THAT SOUTHERN NATO AREA MEANS GREECE,  
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ITALY AND TURKEY, "AS WELL AS AREA OF NATO COMMUNICATION LINES

IN MEDITERRANEAN".

3. BORBA DESCRIBES NAME OF EXERCISE AS "STRANGE AND NEW" AND SPECULATES THAT ORIGINAL PLANS FOR MANUEVERS HAD "CHANGED" ALLEGING TO RECALL THAT EXERCISES HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1973. "REASON WHY PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TIMING WAS CHANGED IS NOT KNOWN TO US". TIMING OF EXERCISES NOW, HOWEVER, IS "STRIKINGLY INTERESTING" SINCE THEY WILL BE "SUPPLEMENTED WITH NEW EPISODIC ACCOMPANIMENT: IRREDENTIST CLAMOR" OF ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY: "OR, PERHAPS, THESE MANEUVERS SHOULD BE (LOOKED AT AS) ACCOMPANYING MUSIC FOR ASSAULTS AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OUR COUNTRY, FOR PRESSURES OF THAT KIND". EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT "IN ANY CASE" NAME CHANGE ITSELF "IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ASSUMES ITS TRUE MEANING: SOMEBODY'S NOTIONS ARE REALLY DARK..." AND THUS TERM "COORDINATION" USED BY ADMIRAL JOHNSTON "ASSUMES A SPECIAL MEANING".

4. COMMENT: BORBA EDITORIAL IS ONLY REFERENCE TO DARK IMAGE EXERCISE WE HAVE SEEN IN PUBLIC PRESS SO FAR. WHILE PIECE OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO NEEDLE USG AND ITALIANS OVER NAME AND TIMING OF EXERCISE, SHOULD THE YUGOSLAVS REALLY BECOME ALARMED BY THE NATO ACTION WE CAN EXPECT AN OFFICIAL PROTEST OR A STATEMENT BY SOME FIGURE OF AUTHORITY RATHER THAN ANONYMOUS BORBA COMMENTARY. TOON

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